



Vegetable Crop Update

A newsletter for commercial potato and vegetable growers prepared by the University of Wisconsin-Madison vegetable research and extension specialists

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Calendar of Events

July 23 – UW-Hancock Ag Research Station Field Day, Hancock, WI (tentative agenda begins at noon)
Aug 22 – UWEX-Langlade County Airport Research Station Field Day, Antigo, WI

Vegetable Crop Update. A.J. Bussan. Professor of Horticulture, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Phone: 608-225-6842. ajbussan@wisc.edu.

Warmer temperatures are rapidly promoting crop growth and development. Some heavy rains have fallen across different parts of the state creating challenges in planting crops in heavy textured soils and have led to some wet feet. Most of the crops have recovered from the frost damage with little evidence of injury other than some scars (damage to leaves) and possibly a little stunted growth. I have not heard of large scale losses in crops due to the frost.



Potatoes: Potato planting has not progressed much in Northern Wisconsin or on the muck soils due to rains and wet soils. Crop planting should be finished up once weather conditions improve.

There are some stand issues with the emerged crop in Central Wisconsin. Seed piece decay is more visible now that the crop has emerged. In addition, there are signs that Rhizoctonia might be affecting the crop. This seems to be much more severe on the crop that had not emerged prior to the frost and heavy rains this week. The wet and cool soils have likely contributed to this effect.

Plants that emerged prior to the end of last week have grown vigorously. Many of these plants now have stolons and are beginning to develop. I would anticipate the tuber initiation will likely begin by the end of next week if warm weather continues.

Potato rooting has progressed quite aggressively even though we have had soil moisture content. In the photo to the left you can see the roots that are growing all the way to the edge of the hill and are

beginning to penetrate into the soils in the furrow. A fun exercise is to carefully excavate the inter-row space and evaluate root penetration. We typically assume roots extend at least 20% beyond the edge of the canopy, but the reality is that root growth extends much further than just beyond the canopy.

Vegetable Disease Update – Amanda J. Gevens, Assistant Professor & Extension Vegetable Plant Pathologist, UW-Madison, Dept. of Plant Pathology, 608-890-3072 (office), Email: gevens@wisc.edu. Vegetable Path Webpage: <http://www.plantpath.wisc.edu/wivegdis/>

Bravo Zn, Bravo Ultrex, and Bravo Weather Stik (Syngenta) chlorothalonil products just received 24(c) Special Local Needs registration from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection for increased allowance of total active ingredient per acre/season for use in long season potatoes. The 24c allows for 16 lb active ingredient per acre in long season potato crops in Wisconsin. This is a modification from the standard federal label for these Bravo products which allows for 11.25 lb active ingredient per acre per season. 24c labels will soon be posted at the DATCP and CDMS websites. Recall that the Echo (Sipcam Advan) chlorothalonil products also have this 24c extension (renewal received in 2010).

High tunnel tomato update and survey: In high tunnels I have visited so far this spring, I have seen little disease - but for incidental Botrytis resulting from broken and/or dead tissues. Remember to keep on top of your fertility and irrigation programs to maintain productive growth that lends to disease control. And, maintain clean tunnel floors and alley spaces outside of and between houses. Yellow rocket weeds, for example, can serve as a beacon for insect pests, according to Dr. Russ Groves, UW-Vegetable Entomology.

As advertised at the WI Fresh Market Veg Growers Association Spring Field Day on high tunnel tomatoes, we are writing to ask for your participation in a grower survey to best identify current standard practices and grower information needs in high tunnel vegetable production. This information will be used to further tailor our research and extension efforts. Below there are 2 survey links. Please select survey 1 if you are currently raising tomatoes in high tunnels. Select survey 2 if you have a high tunnel but are not currently raising tomatoes within the tunnel. No survey necessary for growers without high tunnels. Data generated from the survey will be pooled with no identifying information from a particular operation offered in any summary report. Results will come back to you at grower education meetings this winter. Thank you for helping us help you.

Survey 1: for growers currently raising tomatoes in high tunnel season extension structures
https://buswisc.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_1HWzFr5NeQNNyHr

Survey 2: for growers with high tunnels that are not currently raising tomatoes
https://buswisc.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_brsHP1VNDg5b3s9

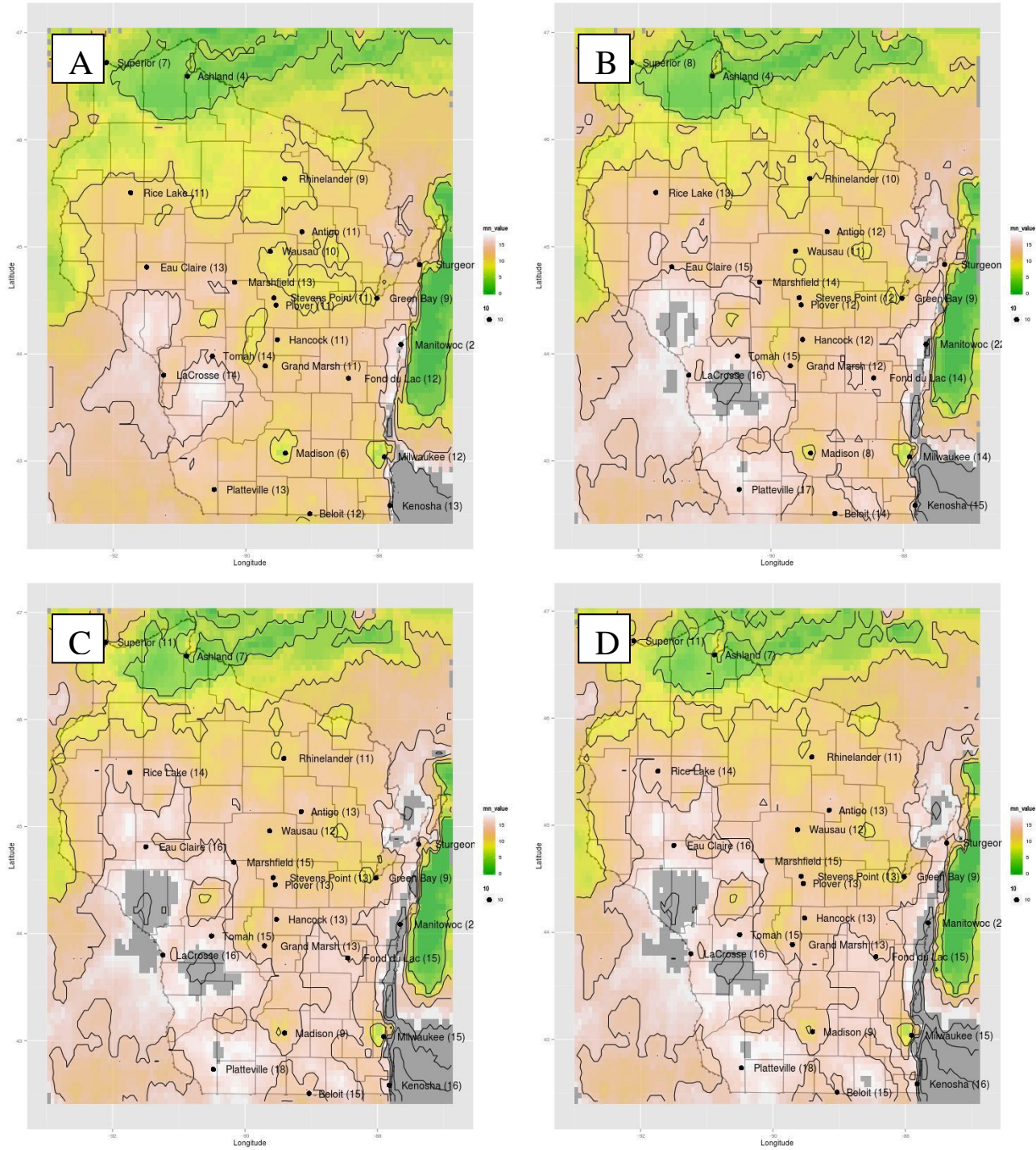
Feel free to contact me if you have questions regarding this survey and forward along as appropriate. Thank you, Amanda Gevens & Ken Cleveland, Graduate Research Assistant working in high tunnel tomato

DSVs and Late Blight: From NOAA weather station and forecasted weather data: Disease Severity Values (DSVs) for a May 22, 2013 potato crop emergence date in Wisconsin at current time (generated on Friday May 31) ranged from 4 to 20 across the state. Regionally, greatest DSV accumulations are occurring at regions surrounding Manitowoc (20) and LaCrosse (14), with most of the rest of the state at roughly 10-13 DSVs. Based on forecasted environmental conditions for the next 24-72 hours, there will be slow accumulation of additional DSVs over the next 3 days.

Late blight status in the U.S. No reports of late blight in Wisconsin at this time. There have been no recent reports of late blight in tomato or potato crops in the U.S. in recent weeks. To date this production year, late blight has been reported in several counties in FL on tomato and potato (primarily of the US-23 clonal lineage). The website: <http://www.usablight.org/> indicates location of positive reports of late blight in the U.S. and provides further information on disease characteristics and management.

The 2013 A3422 Commercial Vegetable Production in Wisconsin guide is available for purchase through the UW Extension Learning Store website: <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Commercial-Vegetable-Production-in-Wisconsin2013-P540.aspx>

A pdf of the document can be downloaded or is available at the following direct link:
<http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Assets/pdfs/A3422.pdf>



Disease Updates: Figure 1. A. Current DSVs. B. 24 hr-forecasted DSVs. C. 48 hr-forecasted DSVs. D. 72 hr-forecasted DSVs. DSVs generated from potato emergence date of May 22, 2013 with 90% relative humidity threshold utilized in calculations.